

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

5 MARCH 1987

Iran-Iraq War

Tehran radio announced that Iranian forces began a new offensive in the Hajj 'Umran region of northern Iraq the night of 3 March. A communique broadcast by the radio said the Iranians killed, wounded, or captured over 2,000 Iraqi soldiers in the attack, codenamed "Karbala'-7," adding that several strategic heights were captured from the enemy. The Iranians repulsed two Iraqi counterattacks during fierce fighting in the area 5 March, IRNA reported. As for the front near Basra, Tehran radio stated that Iranian forces made further gains west of Fish Lake in a "lightning" thrust the night of 4 March. IRNA asserted that around 1,200 Iraqis were killed or wounded in the attack.

An Iraqi spokesman cited by INA dismissed Iran's "imaginary victories," insisting that all Iranian offensives were repulsed and that Iranian forces are still in their previous positions. He claimed that over 10,000 Iranian troops were killed or wounded in the fighting 1-4 March.

Turkish Operation in Iraq

The Iranian Foreign Ministry is following "with meticulous care and anxiety" reports on the 4 March Turkish air strikes against Kurdish positions in Iraq, a spokesman cited by Tehran radio announced. The spokesman reiterated the importance of safeguarding Iraq's territorial integrity and charged that the Baghdad regime subjects "oppressed Muslim people" to aggression. A military statement carried by Ankara radio noted that, in accordance with a 1984 agreement, Turkey sought Iraq's consent to the cross-border raid. Turkish Prime Minister Turgut Ozal, addressing a Council of Ministers meeting via satellite from Houston, thanked the Iraqi Government for its cooperation and promised that "separatist bandits and their supporters" will not go unpunished, Ankara radio reported.

Lebanon

Damascus radio reported that Syrian troops in West Beirut have now reestablished "normal" conditions that have been missed for

a long time. A number of foreign diplomatic missions have expressed readiness to resume operations in West Beirut, according to Beirut radio. Regarding the Palestinian refugees, Syrian observers supervised the dispatch of food supplies into Shatila Camp, while the Amal Movement released 625 Palestinian detainees, the radio noted. Meanwhile, 11 Palestinians were killed or wounded in internicine clashes between rival Fatah factions in the Sidon area, AFP disclosed.

PLO

Palestine Liberation Front (PLF) leader Muhammad 'Abbas told the London magazine *Al-Majallah* that the PLF is "about to launch new operations" against Israel, adding that it intends to strike "in the heart of Tel Aviv" in the near future. While stressing the need to avoid harming innocent civilians, 'Abbas said his group regards "U.S. targets as Israeli targets and Israeli targets as U.S. targets."

Israel and the Pollard Affair

Israel will not repeat the mistake of spying in the United States, Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres stated in remarks reported by IDF radio 5 March. Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin viewed the Pollard affair as a "disaster" that has damaged Israeli-U.S. relations, *Hadashot* noted. A senior Israeli source cited by *Ma'ariv* said that Israel has a moral obligation to help the Pollards, adding that in due time Israel will try to influence the U.S. authorities to reduce the "severe" sentence imposed on Jonathan Pollard.

Libya

JANA accused Egypt of committing "a piracy" by detaining "as hostages" the pilots of the Libyan C-130 plane which made an "emergency landing." Egypt's failure to facilitate their repatriation sets a "dangerous precedent," JANA warned.

FBIS**DAILY REPORT
CONTENTS****South Asia**

Vol VIII No 043

5 March 1987

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW i**AFGHANISTAN**

DER SPIEGEL Interviews Najibullah on Reconciliation [Hamburg 2 Mar]	C 1
Karachi: Mujahidin Down Soviet-Kabul Helicopter	C 2
Kill Soviet-Kabul Troops in 'Clash' [Karachi]	C 2

INDIA

Gandhi on Communalism, Defense, Other Issues	E 1
Pakistanis Invited for Further De-escalation Steps	E 1
Netherlands Prime Minister Leaves 4 Mar	E 1
Kashmir Muslim League Joins Congress-I	E 1

PAKISTAN

Geneva Spokesman Confirms Afghan Attack on Village	F 1
Afghan Talks 'Likely To Remain Inconclusive'	F 1
Minister States 'No Desire' To Have Atomic Bomb	F 1

OTHER COUNTRIES**SRI LANKA**

Minister Says Troops Able To Defeat 'Terrorists'	G 1
Delhi Reports New Fuel Restrictions in Jaffna	G 1
3 'Terrorists' Killed in Clashes in East	G 1
Killing, Capture of 'Terrorists' Reported	G 1
16 'Terrorists' Killed in Jaffna Confrontation	G 2

IRAN

Foreign Ministry on Turkish Bombing of Iraq	I 1
Paper Cited on Islamic 'Movement' in Turkey [London ARABIA]	I 1
Majlis Deputies on Death of Lebanon Hezbollah Group	I 1
Envoy in Beirut on Implementing Peace Proposal	I 1
Majlis Speaker, Montazeri View Country's Situation	I 2
Interior, Foreign Ministers Meet With Montazeri	I 2
Khomeyni Receives Relief Committee Officials	I 2
Naval Chief Meets Khomeyni's Representative	I 2
Oil Ministry Official Views Gulf Oil Rates	I 2
Tehran Commentary on Oil Price Reductions	I 2
UNESCO Team Inspects Qom Damage From Iraqi Raids	I 3
'Extraordinary' Mahdi Corps Group To Go to Front	I 4
Reportage on Combat Operations in War With Iraq	I 4
WIH Spokesman Denies Basra Shelled	I 4
2 Iraqi Artillery Battalions 'Smashed'	I 4
Advance Toward 'Targets' Continues	I 4
'Fierce Battle' in War Theater	I 4

Iraqi Bakhtaran Area Positions Fired on	I 5
Khatem ol-Anbiya' on 'Latest Battle'	I 5
Iraqi Battalion 'Completely Smashed'	I 5
Khatem ol-Anbiya' Communique No 1	I 5
Khatem ol-Anbiya' Communique No 2	I 6
Captured Iraqis on 'Weak Morale'	I 6
IRGC-Iraqi Kurdish Operations Viewed	I 7
Iraqi KDP Forces Raid Iraqis in Atrush	I 7

DER SPIEGEL Interviews Najibullah on Reconciliation
DW050831 Hamburg DER SPIEGEL in German
 2 Mar 87 pp 148-149

[Interview with PDPA General Secretary Najibullah by unidentified *Spiegel* correspondent; no place and date given]

[Text] *Spiegel*: Mr General Secretary: It is obviously difficult for you to maintain the armistice that you proclaimed unilaterally. Bomb attacks, aircraft downings, and missile attacks on Kabul show that the Muslim resistance movement has not accepted your offer. Is that the end of peace hopes for Afghanistan?

Najibullah: Thank you for your sympathy and concern, but the situation is satisfactory. We are sticking to our course to clear the atmosphere in our region by means of an imperturbable desire for peace.

Spiegel: How many mujahidin and refugees have taken advantage of your invitation to "national reconciliation" so far?

Najibullah: More than 30,000 emigrants and 60,000 former resistance fighters returned to Afghanistan last month alone and joined the government. More than 100 armed groups are currently negotiating with us. Others wait and see. Only the extremists — about 15,000 — continue fighting.

Spiegel: No more? Then you should have no great problem in the near future.

Najibullah: We are only concerned about interference from outside. When the aggression organized from beyond our borders is ended we will have no more internal problems.

Spiegel: What consequences did the use of U.S. Stinger missiles by the Muslim rebels have?

Najibullah: The more advanced the weapons, the more victims they claim — especially when they are used against passenger aircraft.

Spiegel: How many political prisoners have you released so far?

Najibullah: Up to now, 6,000 prisoners.

Spiegel: Why not risk a prognosis and tell us when the last Soviet regiment will leave Afghanistan?

Najibullah: It depends on the current Geneva talks with Pakistan. We are careful, but if the other side is constructive we will have the courage to submit a schedule for the withdrawal of troops that has been coordinated with the Soviet Government.

Spiegel: Would 16 months be an appropriate period for the withdrawal of troops?

Najibullah: We cannot commit ourselves to that beforehand.

Spiegel: Does that mean that an agreement will possibly not be reached this time?

Najibullah: We hope that it will be the last negotiating round with Pakistan.

Spiegel: It is rumored here in Kabul that the Soviets will announce the withdrawal of 50,000 soldiers at the Afghan new year's festivities in mid-March.

Najibullah: The problem is not the withdrawal of 50,000 men, but the withdrawal of all Soviet soldiers. That problem and the issue of guarantees of future non-interference in Afghanistan's internal affairs have to be discussed and decided upon in Geneva.

Spiegel: You consider the "revolutionary progress" in Afghanistan "irreversible." On the other hand you invite the bourgeois forces to return to the country and to cooperate with the government of national reconciliation. On what conditions? As a kind of pleasant offer?

Najibullah: No, we are practicing that already. Four ministers, who served the regimes of the national bourgeoisie, and another group of 36 non-party members are members of our government. Cooperation is possible when everybody wants cooperation. The mujahidin are also invited.

Spiegel: Would you tolerate the existence of other organized parties along side the Afghan people's party and their participation in free elections?

Najibullah: That will not be decided by the People's Democratic Party, but by the new constitution of Afghanistan. Its contents are currently being discussed.

Spiegel: There are enough people in Kabul and in exile, who do not trust your announcements as long as the Soviets do not submit a binding withdrawal plan.

Najibullah: Let us speak plainly. Those people are the leaders of some radical groups, which are under the direct influence of U.S. imperialist propaganda. They are doing irresponsible things, fooling around.

Spiegel: Would you be prepared to act personally if that helped national reconciliation?

Najibullah: You should not link politics and persons too much. Currently I represent the desire for reconciliation of 170,000 party members. I would like to implement that desire.

Spiegel: Will there be mutual acts of revenge after the withdrawal of the Soviets?

Najibullah: Our opponents should not fear us. We do not seek vengeance. The path of national reconciliation is a humane path.

Spiegel: You have also invited the former King Sahir Shah to return from his exile in Rome and engage in the process of reconciliation. Are you serious?

Najibullah: The doors of our country are open to all those who want to come home and serve our society.

Spiegel 3 What role could the king play in Kabul? The role of a mediator of integration, perhaps even the president?

Najibullah: It would not be right to make a prediction. Let us leave it to the process of national reconciliation. The people should decide on it in an election. However, the position of king is not provided for by our democratic structure.

Spiegel: He apparently does not want that, because he has abdicated. However, could Sahir Shah not contribute decisively to national reconciliation? Was there a direct offer?

Najibullah: We said whoever agrees with the principles of national reconciliation is welcome. We did not address Sahir Shah directly, but he is included in our invitation to all.

Spiegel: What would you do if he really came back?

Najibullah: If he agrees with our principles, we will welcome him.

Spiegel: Would the ex-king and other returning large landowners get part of their property back?

Najibullah: In March, the Revolutionary Council will publish a decree on changes in agrarian reform, including new distribution limits and general instructions.

Spiegel: There are obviously tensions within your party concerning the conditions and the schedule for the withdrawal of Soviet troops.

Najibullah: There are certainly different opinions in every party. We discuss the issues and then make a decision in accordance with the principles of democratic centralism. It is binding for everybody.

Spiegel: Is Gorbachev urging an end to the Soviet military engagement at the Hindu Kush as soon as possible?

Najibullah: Both sides are interested in rapidly removing tensions from Afghanistan. However, within the framework of cooperation, we remain a sovereign state and represent our own position.

Spiegel: How do you like Gorbachev?

Najibullah: Excellent. Our relationship is absolutely friendly.

Karachi: Mujahidin Down Soviet-Kabul Helicopter
BK041119 Karachi Domestic Service in English
1100 GMT 4 Mar 87

[Text] In Afghanistan, the freedom fighters are reported to have shot down a Soviet-Kabul helicopter gunship while it was shelling the mujahidin center in the liberated Nurestan valley of Laghman Province. They are also reported to have destroyed five security posts in vicinity of Shirin Tagab town. Two tanks and several armored vehicles were damaged and a large quantity of arms and ammunition seized.

Kill Soviet-Kabul Troops in 'Clash'
BK050250 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu
0200 GMT 5 Mar 87

[Text] Reports from Afghanistan say that there has been a severe clash between the mujahidin and the Soviet-Kabul forces 12 kilometers northeast of the capital city of Kabul in which 30 Soviet-Kabul forces were killed. It is reported that the mujahidin in a clash with the Soviet-Kabul forces on Qandahar-Herat highway killed 10 Soviet-Kabul soldiers and damaged 14 armed vehicles and a number of tanks. Another report says that the mujahidin in Paktia Province shot down a military aircraft in Jaji area. In the same area, the mujahidin also destroyed a military base and inflicted heavy losses of life and property.

Gandhi on Communalism, Defense, Other Issues

BK041625 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 4 Mar 87

[Text] The prime minister has called upon all political parties to rise above party consideration and act positively and constructively in the fight against communalism. Mr Rajiv Gandhi was replying to the 3-day debate in the Rajya Sabha on the motion of thanks to the president for his address to the joint sitting of both Houses of Parliament. The motion was later adopted by the House by a voice vote.

Mr Gandhi said those groups which feel isolated must be brought back into the national mainstream. Confrontation will break up the very fabric of the nation. Reiterating his call for the separation of religion from politics, he urged the opposition parties not to build their bases on communal line as this may tear the country apart.

He congratulated the Punjab chief minister, Mr Barnala, for his efforts of tackling the terrorist problem and complimented the West Bengal government for helping the center bring the GNLFF [Gurkha National Liberation Front] back into the nation mainstream.

The prime minister made a strong appeal to the opposition to keep the office of the president above politics. He accused certain opposition parties of politicizing the presidency. He asserted that the government has never deviated from the constitutional responsibility of briefing the president on matters of national importance.

Listing his government's achievements, Mr Rajiv Gandhi said much has been done to alleviate poverty and remove backwardness. He said industry and agriculture have grown over the last 3 years. He refuted a member's charge that the public sector has not been given due importance, pointing out that about half the total investment in the sector has been made during the last 2 years. Mr Gandhi, however, pointed out that poverty cannot be eliminated without educating the masses. This is what the new educational policy aims at doing.

Turning to the ethnic problem in Sri Lanka, the prime minister said India's note on the latest proposals for peaceful solution had not been rejected by the Jayewardene government. He expressed the hope that both parties will sit across the table to find a peaceful solution.

Mr Gandhi said India has been trying to improve its relations [with] Pakistan. But its clandestine nuclear program remains a

problem. There should be no mistake about our ability to defend our sovereignty and integrity.

He said certain tensions exist on our borders with China. India would like to solve them peacefully through patience, restraint, and statesmanship.

Refuting an opposition member's contention in the Lok Sabha that India's self-reliance in manufacturing sophisticated defense weapons is negligible, Mr Gandhi maintained that it is comparable to the best in the world. However, all defense requirements cannot be met indigenously, and no country can achieve complete self-reliance. He reiterated that there can be no letup in the country's defense preparedness in view of the very large arms sales to a neighboring country.

Pakistanis Invited for Further De-escalation Steps

BK050915 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0830 GMT 5 Mar 87

[Text] A Pakistani delegation has been invited to visit India at an early mutually convenient date for further de-escalation measures along the border between the two countries. This was stated in the minutes of the recent consultations between India and Pakistan at the foreign secretaries level tabled in both Houses of Parliament today.

Netherlands Prime Minister Leaves 4 Mar

BK041642 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network
in English 1600 GMT 4 Mar 87

[Text] The Netherlands prime minister, Mr R.F.M. Lubbers, left New Delhi today at the end of his 3-day visit to the country. Mr Lubbers and his wife were seen off at the airport by the prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, Mrs Sonia Gandhi, and other dignitaries.

Kashmir Muslim League Joins Congress-I

BK050330 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0240 GMT 5 Mar 87

[Text] The Jammu and Kashmir unit of the Indian Union Muslim League has been dissolved. The president of the party, Mr Taj Moheyuddin, told our Srinagar correspondent that he along with his supporters joined the Congress-I today.

Geneva Spokesman Confirms Afghan Attack on Village
BK031610 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu
1500 GMT 3 Mar 87

[Text] Indirect talks for the settlement of the Afghanistan issue will resume in Geneva this evening. Due to an engagement of Kabul's Foreign Minister Abdol Wakil, the talks could not be held this morning.

Meanwhile, in Geneva a spokesman of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees has confirmed the bombardment by the Kabul administration's planes on a village of Kurram Agency in Pakistan. Speaking to newsmen, he said the attack was carried out when Afghan refugees were lining up to get their quota of kerosene from about 30,000 litres of kerosene. He said 40 persons, including Pakistani workers, were killed in the attack. Those Pakistanis were employed to look after the Afghan refugees.

Afghan Talks 'Likely To Remain Inconclusive'
BK041545 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu
1500 GMT 4 Mar 87

[Text] Reports from Geneva say that the indirect talks on the future of Afghanistan are likely to remain inconclusive and deadlocked due to Kabul regime representatives' continued insistence on the inclusion of irrelevant elements into ongoing negotiations. The informed UN sources have said the talks are also not making any progress because of the serious differences in the viewpoints of the two sides on the timeframe for the withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan.

Pakistan's Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan held a detailed meeting with the UN representative Diego Cordovez yesterday evening. He is also scheduled to have another meeting with Cordovez this evening.

Minister States 'No Desire' To Have Atomic Bomb
BK050839 Karachi Overseas Service in English
0800 GMT 5 Mar 87

[Text] The minister in charge for science and technology, Mr Wasim Sajjad, categorically stated in the National Assembly today that Pakistan does not possess an atomic bomb, has no desire to have a bomb, and it cannot afford to manufacture an atomic bomb.

Replying to a question in the National Assembly, he said: The president, the prime minister, and other functionaries have repeatedly stated that our nuclear program is for peaceful purposes to meet our energy requirements.

Answering another question, he said negotiations with the Government of France are still continuing to comply with the contract for the reprocessing plant. The nuclear reprocessing plant for which a contract was entered into with the French Government was intended to cater to the energy needs. He said: At the moment, Pakistan has not requested any country for the supply of supercomputers.

SRI LANKA

Minister Says Troops Able To Defeat 'Terrorists'

*BK031113 Colombo International Service in English
1045 GMT 3 Mar 87*

[Text] Sri Lanka High Commissioner in India Bernard Tilakaratna met Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi in New Delhi yesterday. However, no details of the talks have so far been received, according to a senior government spokesman in Colombo.

Meanwhile, National Security Minister Lalith Athulathmudali, in an exclusive interview with the SLBC [Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation] yesterday said that the security forces had proved that they were capable of defeating the terrorists. However, he said that the government would take all measures necessary to end the conflict through negotiation.

Referring to his recent Australian tour, the minister said that he was able to explain the correct situation in Sri Lanka to the various parliamentarians, archbishops, and other religious dignitaries in that country.

Delhi Reports New Fuel Restrictions in Jaffna

*BK050334 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0240 GMT 5 Mar 87*

[Text] The Sri Lankan Government has tightened the fuel embargo on the northern Jaffna peninsula by introducing new restrictions. A UNI [United News of India] report from Colombo says the restrictions have been imposed on supply of petrol and diesel to buses and other vehicles plying out of the peninsula. Security authorities in the northern Vavuniya District have announced that supplies would continue to the buses plying from Vavuniya to Jaffna, but special permits have to be obtained from the army authorities. The move comes in the wake of intensified security operations in the Jaffna peninsula. There are also reports that the forces are moving to encircle the Jaffna town.

Meanwhile, the Indian high commissioner in Colombo, Mr J.N. Dixit, met leaders of a number of important political parties in the island over the last few days and explained India's assessment of the situation. Our Colombo correspondent, Plabon Majumder, understands that these moves have been undertaken to try to reorient their attitude toward a negotiated settlement of the problem.

3 'Terrorists' Killed in Clashes in East

*BK050855 Colombo LANKA PUWATH in English
0835 GMT 5 Mar 87*

["OANA/Pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, Mar 05 (LANKA PUWATH) — Three separatist terrorists were killed in a confrontation with the security forces at Periyaniyavanai in Batticaloa District, eastern Sri Lanka yesterday.

Two loaded revolvers, several hand grenades, and LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] literature were recovered from the vicinity, the Media Centre in Colombo told LANKA PUWATH today.

In Jaffna yesterday, terrorists fired a few improvised explosives at the telecommunications building and at the chest clinic area. No damage was caused to the buildings, the Media Centre said.

The terrorists also fired three mortars at the Thondamannar camp in northern Sri Lanka yesterday.

Terrorists later fled leaving behind their arms and other equipment when search patrols were sent out.

Another gang of terrorists who fired at the Velvettithurai camp fled when security force patrols were sent out to hunt down the terrorists. Meanwhile, two terrorists identified as Arumugam and Balendran were captured by security forces in Vavuniya, northern Sri Lanka yesterday.

Killing, Capture of 'Terrorists' Reported

*BK020927 Colombo LANKA PUWATH in English
0816 GMT 2 Mar 87*

["OANA/Pool" Item]

[Text] Colombo, Mar 02 (LANKA PUWATH) — A letter by a Sri Lankan Tamil from Saudi Arabia addressed to the Jaffna LTTE commander 'Kittu' giving instructions of the latest methods of setting booby traps and the fund raising activities in Saudi Arabia was recovered from a Hi-Ace van belonging to terrorists captured by the security forces at Tellippalai in Jaffna District, northern Sri Lanka yesterday.

Several armed terrorists inside the van were killed when the security forces opened fire, the Media Centre told LANKA PUWATH today.

Investigations revealed the van belonged to 'Kittu'.

At Palali on Friday, an armed terrorist riding a bicycle was shot dead by the security forces.

Meanwhile at Akkaraipattu in Batticaloa District, eastern Sri Lanka, 26 terrorist suspects were captured by the security forces.

They are believed to be members of the LTTE, TELO [Tamil Eelam Liberation Organization], PLOT [as received; PLOTE is Peoples Liberation Organization of Tamil Eelam], EPRLF [Eelam Peoples Revolutionary Liberation Front] and EROS [Eelam Revolutionary Organization of Students] terrorist groups.

At Vavuniya yesterday a member of the Peoples Liberation Organization of Tamils (PLOT) surrendered to the police with arms and ammunitions. He has confessed he was trained in south India.

Five land mines each containing 25 kgs of gelignite was recovered

from a terrorist base at Nilaveli in Trincomalee District.

16 'Terrorists' Killed in Jaffna Confrontation

BK011308 Colombo International Service in English

1045 GMT 1 Mar 87

[Text:] In a confrontation with the terrorists in the Kadduwan area in Jaffna yesterday, the Security Forces killed at least 16 terrorists and severely wounded 20 others. The Media Center in Colombo said that many of the wounded are believed dead by now. The whole area has been cleared of the terrorists. Over 40 terrorists are estimated to have suffered injuries during the operation. Casualties among the Security Forces were 3 dead and 10 wounded.

Foreign Ministry on Turkish Bombing of Iraq

LD041719 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1630 GMT 4 Mar 87

[Text] In connection with the bombing of hamlets in north Iraq by Turkish military aircraft, a spokesman of our country's Ministry of Foreign Affairs said:

We are following these reports with meticulous care and anxiety. As in the past, the Islamic Republic of Iran emphasizes that Iraq's territorial integrity must under no circumstances be subjected to aggression. This incident demonstrates the shakiness, weakness, and cowardice of the regime ruling in Iraq and further shows that that criminal regime, in order to safeguard itself and secure the continuation of its aggression against Iran, welcomes the undermining of its own territorial integrity and the subjecting of the oppressed Muslim people in northern Iraq to aggression.

The raids launched by Turkish aircraft against northern Iraqi hamlets, culminating in the killing of innocent Kurdish Muslim people of that region, have been cause for regret by Muslim people of Iran and the world.

He added: Our country's authorities have often reminded the Turkish authorities of the Islamic Republic of Iran's viewpoints in connection with the need to safeguard Iraq's territorial integrity. We believe that incidents and events in Turkey cannot be the pretext for entering a neighboring country, resulting in subjecting innocent people to aggression, people who have had no connection whatsoever with these incidents, but are instead engaged in waging a struggle against the Baghdad ruling regime and toward liberation from that regime's overlordship.

Paper Cited on Islamic 'Movement' in Turkey

NC051121 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
0430 GMT 5 Mar 87

[Text] In its latest issue yesterday, the London-based English-language *Arabia* weekly published an article on the growth of the Islamic movement within Turkey and the Turkish Government's problems in view of this. The article noted the following: The issue of Islamic attire for women in Turkey is the most important problem being faced by the generals in that country. By their insistence on Islamic dress and their refusal to give it up despite threats by Turkish Government and nongovernment officials, the Muslims in the country have actually challenged Turkey's non-religious regime to a struggle.

The weekly published a picture of three university students in Islamic dress and noted the history behind the Islamic movement's growth in Turkey. The article stated: Turkish military officials have introduced very strict measures to fight against Islamic attire in the country. They have distributed circulars calling for a serious struggle against this. As a first step, they have resorted to such threats as removal from universities, removal from jobs, and the closure of mosques. In some cases, the Turkish police have even raided the homes of people who were caught reading religious books and then molested these people.

The weekly noted that Turkey has introduced wide-ranging measures to struggle against the growth of Islamic culture in the country. These steps, however, have been unable to alter the Turkish people's sociopolitical culture which is rooted in Islam, and this has created great concern among the Turkish generals.

In conclusion, *Arabia* asserted that the wearing of Islamic attire and the growth of the Islamic movement signals danger for Turkey. The article stated: A U.S. State Department adviser who recently visited Istanbul told Turkish officials that Washington lauds the steps being taken by the Turkish generals in the struggle against Islamic fundamentalists. The official said that his country is prepared to extend any type of assistance to Turkey in this matter.

Majlis Deputies on Death of Lebanon Hezbollah Group

LD041800 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1630 GMT 4 Mar 87

[Text] In a statement a large group of deputies of the Islamic Consultative Assembly condemned the martyrdom of a group of Hezbollah members in Lebanon and said that the incident has brought sorrow and anger to Muslims and joy to Zionism.

This statement expresses support for the latest remarks of Grand Ayatollah Montazeri on this issue. The Foreign Ministry is called upon to communicate this matter to the Syrian Government. Another part of the statement reads: With Muslims and the resistance in Lebanon more than ever in need of the solidarity and unity of Muslim and resisting forces so that they may burn up the roots of Zionist and blasphemy's aggressions and put a balm on the wounded hearts of Lebanon and of Palestine's Muslims by inflicting effective and self-sacrificing blows on the enemy and on the arch-Satan, the latest actions taking place by way of the establishment of security in Lebanon will not only be incapable of putting out the flames of dispute and opposition which have been kindled by world arrogance in Lebanon, but will have no other consequence save that of delivering a blow to the Islamic revolution of Lebanon.

Envoy in Beirut on Implementing Peace Proposal

LD170932 Tehran IRNA in English 0907 GMT 17 Feb 87

[Text] Beirut, Feb 17, IRNA — Iranian ambassador to Damascus, Hujjat ol-Islam Mohammad Hasan Akhbari Monday called on all rival groups in the Lebanese camps war to help implement remaining articles of the Iranian proposal to end the camps crisis.

Speaking in a press conference in Sidon on the progress made in containing clashes in Palestinian refugee camps, he said these efforts, made in cooperation with Lebanese ulema, resulted in lifting siege of the Al-Rashidiyah camp. He expressed hope that through further efforts the Iranian proposal would be fully implemented.

Further in the press conference, he praised good intentions of the Amal Movement officials and urged Palestinians to evacuate eastern Sidon and pave the way for lifting siege from other camps.

Meanwhile, two Sidon Sunni and Shi'ite ulema, Shaykh Salim Jalal Al-Din and Shaykh Muhammad Hasan Al-'Ayn, in a joint statement expressed appreciation for efforts taken to solve the camps crisis. They called on rival factions to observe the Iranian proposal and end the problem. They also said that internal clashes in Lebanon served interests of the Zionist regime and urged all Muslim groups to unite and fight against the regime occupying Palestine.

Majlis Speaker, Montazeri View Country's Situation

LD011118 Tehran IRNA in English 0908 GMT 1 Mar 87

[Text] Tehran, March 1, IRNA — Majlis Speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi Rafsanjani conferred with Iran's future spiritual leader Ayatollah Montazeri in Qom Sunday.

In the meeting Majlis speaker briefed Ayatollah Montazeri on the country's current situation.

Interior, Foreign Ministers Meet With Montazeri

LD041205 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 4 Mar 87

[Text] In the last few days, Interior Minister Mohtashemi and Foreign Minister Velayati have met and conferred with Grand Ayatollah Montazeri.

Khomeyni Receives Relief Committee Officials

LD041310 Tehran IRNA in English 1257 GMT 4 Mar 87

[Text] Tehran, March 4, IRNA — The leader of the Islamic Revolution and founder of the Islamic Republic, Imam Khomeyni, received a group of officials of the Imam's Relief Committee and the Mostazafeen (Oppressed) Foundation at Jamaran Mosque here Wednesday.

During the meeting, head of the Mostazafeen Foundation Tahmaseb Mazaheri presented the imam with a comprehensive report on the activities of the foundation.

Also speaking at the meeting was Imam Khomeyni's representative to the Imam's Relief Committee Habibollah Asgar-Owliadi [name as received] who briefed the leader of the Islamic Revolution on service [word indistinct]. The founder of the Islamic Republic responded to enthusiasm of the visitors at the end of the meeting.

Naval Chief Meets Khomeyni's Representative

LD050900 Tehran IRNA in English 0800 GMT 5 Mar 87

[Text] Tehran, March 5, IRNA — Commander of Naval Forces Captain Mohammad Hoseyn Malekzadegan met Imam Khomeyni's representative in Bushehr Hojjat ol-Eslam Madani, Wednesday.

Captain Malekzadegan who is currently in Bushehr, informed Hojjat ol-Eslam Madani of combat readiness of the Navy.

Meanwhile, Captain Malekzadegan inspected Naval Base in Khark Island.

Oil Ministry Official Views Gulf Oil Rates

LD042120 Tehran IRNA in English 1806 GMT 4 Mar 87

[Text] Tehran, March 4, IRNA — Deputy oil minister in charge of international relations and commerce, Kazempour Ardabili, said here Wednesday that despite foreign conspiracies and an artificial lowering of North Sea oil, Persian Gulf oil is bought at higher rates than the past week and for as much as 17.35 dollars per barrel.

The official of the Iranian Oil Ministry said OPEC's production cuts and its retention of assigned production for individual producers has served to thwart the foreign conspiracy for pushing prices further down.

He said as a strategy, foreign buyers have intentionally delayed their purchase and also refused to refine certain categories of oil such as liquid gas and opted to buy at small size and over short term agreements of up to one month. The Oil Ministry official said this week the trend has changed and buyers bid for agreements of three to six months.

Kazempour Ardabili said Iraq's oil installations and especially the Romayla pumping station are now under continuous fire of the Iranian forces. He said because of the continued shelling of Iraq's oil centers by the Iranian forces, the Iraqi Government would not afford to export oil in a foreseeable future.

Tehran Commentary on Oil Price Reductions

NC041307 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 4 Mar 87

[Commentary prepared by the Central News Unit Research Group]

[Text] New developments appearing in the world oil market last week have led to a drop in crude oil prices. This reduction was initiated by an approximately \$3 a barrel drop in the price of North Sea Brent crude within the oil market. The price for this type of oil fell to below \$16 a barrel last Wednesday for the first time since last December.

Unfortunately, this trend in reduced oil prices has continued. In the process, it has rekindled interest in the topic of oil within the world's economic circles. Various views and forecasts about this matter by OPEC and non-OPEC officials alike have recently been published in the world's mass media.

Various factors have an impact on fluctuations in the world oil market. The recent oil price swings are also the product of various elements, some of which we would now like to analyze.

For the first time since oil prices were reduced, the decisions adopted by the 80th OPEC session in December 1986 led prices to rise to a level of \$19 a barrel. Among the various views

expressed about recent developments in the oil market, two enjoy the most support. One group advocates the view that establishing an OPEC production ceiling of 15.8 million barrels a day for the first and second quarters of the current year has created a fragile atmosphere for the world oil market in the wake of an increased exploitation of strategic oil reserves by Western countries and certain OPEC members. Additional production by some OPEC and non-OPEC members — namely; the UAE, Kuwait, Iraq, Ecuador, and Gabon — has led to a rise in OPEC's production ceiling. Although this rise has been slight, it nevertheless created the recent drop in oil prices as a result of the market's instability.

It is said that Saudi Arabia has dropped its production considerably and that some of OPEC's violating members have also refuted reports of any increase in their production level. However, it is a fact that the Iraqi regime has continued with its additional production. The negative impact which this action has had on developments in the oil market cannot be ignored.

In addition to this view, which actually places the entire blame for developments on OPEC and its members, there is a second outlook which believes that the West and the various oil companies are trying to foil OPEC's decisions by creating artificial developments in the market. A few weeks have now passed since the oil companies reduced their purchases from OPEC members, especially Persian Gulf oil countries, at official prices. This is apparently the result of low spot prices. These companies are constantly in search of cheaper prices. Spot prices have dropped considerably during the last few weeks, although this reduction does not seem to be in accordance with the rules of market supply and demand. Western countries, particularly Britain, together with oil companies, are cheating in the market and decreasing spot prices to show that OPEC is unable to control the market through a reduction in its production ceiling.

We should also consider the fact that a fixed price of \$18 is acceptable to these countries. By resorting to such devious acts, perhaps this group is trying to prevent prices from increasing above \$18.

Netback prices also threaten OPEC's decisions. According to some experts, the slight rise in netback prices, which is mostly artificial, tends to deceive OPEC members and pushes them toward spot prices.

Among those who support this second view are some important OPEC members, the most notable of whom is Nigerian Petroleum Resources Minister Lukman. In a number of interviews and speeches, Minister Lukman has stated that recent developments with regard to oil prices are the result of steps taken by various oil companies and Britain. Generally speaking, he has completely ignored the role played by OPEC's increased production in these developments. In a recent interview, meanwhile, Saudi Arabia's new Petroleum Minister Hisham Nazir pointed to his country's steadfastness with regard to OPEC's decisions. He noted that the reason behind the recent drop in oil prices was an end to the northern hemisphere's winter season.

In one way or another, all the elements we have mentioned have certainly had a negative impact on recent developments in the oil market. Therefore, the weaknesses and strengths of each of these

elements should be studied. More than anything else, the conditions in the oil market over the last few weeks have showed that OPEC needs a swing producer to be able to meet the changing demand for OPEC oil brought about by climatic fluctuations in the best way possible. This role was played by Saudi Arabia before 1985, and Iran believes that it should once again undertake this duty. The steps taken by Saudi Arabia in February to reduce production show that it too is willing to play this role. When Fahd established the \$18 price, special conditions for Saudi Arabia were created, and it is extremely important for Saudi leaders to now preserve them.

It is necessary to note that with the end of March and the warming climate, OPEC's difficulties will only increase. Certain important oil publications foresee that the world demand for oil will be 45.7 million barrels a day during the second quarter of the current year, beginning at the end of March. This indicates a drop of about 3 million barrels in comparison with the first quarter, something which might possibly force OPEC to reduce production. Within this framework, OPEC has announced its readiness to confront any emergency situation in the oil market. Under present conditions, oil circles are studying the possibility of an extraordinary OPEC session. Such a meeting may be held if oil prices drop to around \$15 a barrel.

Taking into consideration various factors, particularly the belief held by many that there is a need for both OPEC and non-OPEC members to stabilize the \$18 price, a considerable drop in oil prices in the current year is not expected. The PIW [expansion unknown] oil magazine believes that the possibility of a sharp drop in oil prices in 1987 is extremely weak and that prices will stabilize between \$14-\$18 a barrel. Oil companies and industrialized countries, however, will not allow OPEC to stabilize this level of prices easily. If prices are easily stabilized at \$18, then murmurs of an additional increase in oil prices will once again begin. If there is such an increase, many of the economic estimations made by the industrialized powers, particularly the United States, will be proven wrong.

UNESCO Team Inspects Qom Damage From Iraqi Raids *LD051002 Tehran IRNA in English 0844 GMT 5 Mar 87*

[Text] Qom, March 5, IRNA — Special envoys of director general of UNESCO, Amadou Mahtar M'Bow, who are here to inspect damage caused on Qom cultural and historical monuments in Iraqi bombing raids visited on Wednesday the bombarded areas.

Toured by the UNESCO team, comprising two Indian and Belgian experts, were the city's old bazaar, a mosque, a clinic, a hospital, and a girl's school, all damaged in Iraqi bombings raids. The UNESCO envoys expressed regret and shock over the bombardment.

An Iraqi refugee called on them to voice the Iraqi nation's outcry in international circles and state that Saddam is martyring Iraqi youth and ulema through wide-spread use of torture and is neglecting all international laws.

The Iraqi refugee added that the Iraqi nation is duty-bound to fight the Iraqi rulers till Iraq is liberated from the Ba'thist yoke.

'Extraordinary' Mahdi Corps Group To Go to Front
LD050913 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
 0829 GMT 5 Mar 87

[Unscheduled announcement]

[Text] O you, Muslim nation of Iran: please pay attention to a statement of the Oppressed Mobilization Unit.

O standard-bearers of Muhammad's Islam and true guardians of monotheism, now that with divine help your resistance and steadfastness have dealt a disgraceful defeat to the enemy and his latest criminal plot involving the barbaric bombing of cities, villages, and schools, and now that your zealous and brave sons and brothers are creating new epics on every front, in response to repeated requests to be allowed to join the dear combatants on the eve of the New Year [21 March], the Oppressed Mobilization Unit has organized an extraordinary dispatch for the Corps of Mahdi — may God hasten his glad advent — on 9-11 March. God willing, the extensive presence of the Hezbollahi nation on the battlefronts of the war of justice against injustice will bring a speedy final victory against the aggressive enemy.

Volunteers may henceforth contact the mobilization bases and centers throughout the country. The date of dispatch for other provinces and the duration of service at the front will be announced later.

Reportage on Combat Operations in War With Iraq

WIH Spokesman Denies Basra Shelled
LD041947 Tehran IRNA in English 1828 GMT 4 Mar 87

[Text] Tehran, March 4, IRNA — The Islamic Republic of Iran categorically denied Iraqi claim on Wednesday that Iranian forces had shelled the southern Iraqi city of Basra. A spokesman for the War Information Headquarters (WIH) described the Iraqi claims as "pure fabrication".

The spokesman said that despite the ongoing battle between Iranian Muslim combatants and Iraqi troops east of Basra, the city has never been shelled over the past two weeks while Iraq has regularly shelled the Iranian port cities of Khorramshahr and Abadan.

Warning international bodies against any Iraqi act of mischief, the spokesman reiterated that Iran would never initiate the war of cities. But, he noted, if Iraq resumes its atrocities on Iran's residential areas, it would face a severe response from the Iranian forces.

2 Iraqi Artillery Battalions 'Smashed'
LD041706 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
 1618 GMT 4 Mar 87

[Unscheduled announcement]

[Text] Dear listeners: We have just learned that two artillery battalions of the aggressive enemy's forces on the north western heights have been smashed. According to a report received from the Khatem ol-Anbiya' Headquarters, the epic-creating troops of the Ground Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran Armed Forces, continuing their glorious battle in the "Karbala'-7" operational theater, destroyed by 40 to 80 percent the 247th Battalion of 122mm Artillery and the 696th Battalion of 53mm Artillery of the Zionist enemy. In the course of this battle, the glorious fighters of the Ground Forces of the Iranian Armed Forces set ablaze appreciable numbers of heavy and medium weapons and captured another number as booty.

Advance Toward 'Targets' Continues
NC050514 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
 0330 GMT 5 Mar 87

[Text] Just minutes ago our correspondent sent us the following report from east of Basra on operations conducted by the combatants of Islam last night in the area west of Fish Lake:

[Begin recording] O heroic nation of Iran! The devotees of Islam carried out a lightning and timely attack last night. They struck at the enemy's heart west of Fish Lake and advanced northward. After taking up their new positions, they began to advance toward predetermined targets at 0400 [0030 GMT] this morning. They inflicted heavy losses on the enemy, destroying numerous tanks and personnel carriers.

An operations commander made the following comment on last night's campaign by the combatants of Islam: The speed with which the combatants of Islam undertook these operations was so surprising that it deprived the despised enemy of any initiative and inflicted deadly blows against its war machinery. Explaining the current situation in the war theater, the commander asserted: The enemy has laid down minefields and barbed wire and built extremely strong fortresses in this area for years. It thought that no strength on earth would be able to destroy these obstacles and pass through this area. Despite all obstacles, however, the devotees of Islam are now inching their way toward predetermined targets. They are inflicting deadlier blows against the mercenaries of Saddam with each passing moment. And there is no victory except through God, the glorious, the wise. [Koranic verse] From the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran correspondent in the southern operation theater. [end recording]

'Fierce Battle' in War Theater
LD050918 Tehran IRNA in English 0907 GMT 5 Mar 87

[Text] Hajj 'Umran, northwestern fronts, March 5, IRNA — Fierce battle, Wednesday morning, with Iranian forces in full

control is reportedly going on in "Karbala'-7" operational region, in areas overlooking Rawanduz-Hajj 'Umrān axis.

The operation was launched in a 50 sq. kms mountainous and snow covered region, in northwestern war fronts Tuesday night. The Iranian troops in hand-to-hand battle continue to inflict deadly blows on Iraqi forces.

The senior Iranian military commanders are reportedly directing the operations in the fronts lines. Several Iraqi brigades and battalions have been annihilated and a large number of their personnel have been killed and many others captured since Tuesday night. So far some 220 Iraqi POW's have been transferred behind war fronts.

Iraqi Bakhtaran Area Positions Fired on
LD050932 Tehran IRNA in English 0909 GMT 5 Mar 87

[Text] Bakhtaran, March 5, IRNA — The Muslim forces of Iran have subjected enemy positions and fortifications and roads in Bakhtaran border war fronts to continuous artillery fire over the past 24 hours. All enemy movements have been checked.

The enemy casualties are reported to stand at 27 killed and injured. The Iranian forces also have destroyed enemy munition depots, bunkers, and armaments.

Khatem ol-Anbiya' on 'Latest Battle'
LD050924 Tehran IRNA in English 0916 GMT 5 Mar 87

[Text] Tehran, March 5, IRNA — The Muslim forces of Iran launched a new attack on Iraqi forces' positions east of Basra Wednesday night, said a Khatem ol-Anbiya' Headquarters communique Thursday morning.

According to the statement the Muslim combatants of Iran in their latest battle west of the man-made Fish Canal, destroyed large amounts of enemy armoured equipment and inflicted heavy losses on Iraqi troops.

In the heavy fighting of the past 24 hours in southern sector of war fronts, remainder of Infantry Brigades 82 and 14 were destroyed by 50-70 percent. Personnel of these brigades were either killed, wounded, or captured including a brigade second colonel commander, several officers, and NCO's, added the statement.

Iraqi Battalion 'Completely Smashed'
LD050952 Tehran IRNA in English 0945 GMT 5 Mar 87

[Text] Tehran, March 5, IRNA — Some 1,200 Iraqi forces were reported killed or wounded and 35 others have been captured overnight fighting in the southern operational fronts.

Another battalion of the Iraqi Armoured Brigade 26 has been completely smashed in the ongoing Iranian operations, said a Khatem ol-Anbiya' Headquarters statement Thursday morning. The statement added that the fire of the anti-tank units of the

Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps (IRGC), destroyed by 50 percent an enemy tank battalion.

Khatem ol-Anbiya' Communique No 1
LD041831 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1630 GMT 4 Mar 87

[Communique No 1 of the Khatem ol-Anbiya' Headquarters, the joint operational center of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful.

To those against whom war is made, permission is granted to fight back as they are verily wronged; and God is verily capable of rendering succor to them! [verse from the Koran]

O defiant, revolutionary nation of Iran! Simultaneous with the remarkable victories scored by Islam's mighty combatants on the southern fronts, the intrepid men of the monotheistic army, seeking succor from divine assistance and opening up a new front northwest of the country, have begun the "Karbala'-7" offensive. During these operations, carried out under the sacred code-name Ya Mowla-ye Motteqiyān, [O peer of the pious] deep inside Iraqi territory in the Hajj 'Umrān region, the mighty combatants of Orumiyeh's 64th Division, seeking to liberate the region's strategic heights, destroy the Iraqi war machine, dominate the Hajj 'Umrān-Rawanduz axis, and also create the necessary facilities for the continuation of the struggle by Iraqi dissidents in north-eastern Iraq, dealt heavy blows and losses to the Ba'thist enemy in that region.

In the course of the victorious "Karbala'-7" offensive, Islam's heroic combatants destroyed three battalions of the 75th Brigade of the 23d Iraqi Army Division, the 604th, 93d, and 96th Brigades of the enemy and killed, wounded, or captured more than 2,000 men. So far, 155 of them have been evacuated behind the front. Among the dead are a number of Iraqi officers and commanders, including Captain Sa'dun, commanding officer of the 3d Battalion of the 75th Brigade.

The antiblasphemy combatants of the Islamic army, making use of the most modern night combat methods, smashed and occupied the mountainous and extremely fortified positions of the enemy, including the sensitive, strategic Height 2,519 in the Hajj 'Umrān region.

With the occupation of the strategic Kird Mand, Tappeh Surkhi, and Yal-e Kalleh Asbi heights, the towns of Choman Mustafa, (Kaverz), (Nav Burdan), (Komiern) and also the assembly and deployment points of the enemy around these towns came into direct view and within range of the fire of the Islamic combatants.

The battle is now continuing in the "Karbala'-7" operational theater, with the Islamic combatants having the upper hand.

And there is no victory except through God, the glorious, the wise! [verse from the Koran]

[Signed] The Khatem ol-Anbiyai Headquarters

Khatem ol-Anbiya' Communique No 2

*LD051149 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1030 GMT 5 Mar 87*

[Communique No 2 of the Khatem ol-Anbiya' Headquarters, joint operational center of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Iran and the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps, issued 5 March]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. To those against whom war is made, permission is granted to fight back as they are verily wronged; and God is verily capable of rendering succor to them! [Koranic verse]

O Heroic Islamic nation, O sacrificing, revolutionary nation: The zealous combatants of the Islamic army in the "Karbala'-7" offensive in the Hajj 'Umran operational theater, inflicted more heavy losses and casualties on the Saddamist army last night. The mighty combatants of Orumiyyeh's 64th Ground Forces' Division of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran attacked the positions of the Ba'thist enemy north-west of the Hajj 'Umran region, inflicting heavy losses and casualties on the Iraqi Ba'thist forces. In this surprise attack a large number of the Iraqi regime's troops were killed, and more than 30 were captured by the Islamic combatants.

Following last night's attack by the Islamic combatants, the Ba'thist enemy regrouped his defeated forces and embarked on launching heavy counterattacks in the region, whereupon the combatants of the Islamic army repulsed the Zionist enemy's counterattacks and succeeded in inflicting further fatal blows on the forces of Iraq's II Army Corps. During these clashes, owing to the bravery and resistance of the combatants of the Ground Forces of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the 1st and 2d Battalions of the 3d Brigade of the 25th Division and the remnants of the 604th Brigade of the Iraqi Ba'thist and Zionist army were destroyed. More than 30 troops from these units were killed or wounded and another group was captured by the Islamic combatants. Since the beginning of this offensive 237 have been moved behind the front.

The Islamic combatants' heavy artillery fire in this area also set on fire and destroyed large quantities of enemy equipment and several ammunition dumps.

At the moment the Islamic forces, through their total vigilance and accurate and effective fire on the Iraqi forces' positions, have deprived the enemy of all mobility and totally dominate the heights in the region.

And there is no victory except through God, the glorious, the wise! [Koranic verse]

[Signed] The Khatem ol-Anbiya' Headquarters

Captured Iraqis on 'Weak Morale'

*NC051032 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
0330 GMT 5 Mar 87*

[Text] Iraqi officers captured by the combatants of Islam during the recent operations east of Basra have attended an interview with correspondents. They commented on the weak morale of the Iraqi forces vis-a-vis the lightning attacks launched by the combatants of Islam.

Commander of the 2d Battalion of the 504th Brigade Lieutenant Sabah Muhammad 'Ali Muhammad, who was seized by the combatants of Islam during operations the night before last, spoke about his capture. He stated: During the operations launched by the combatants of Islam west of Fish Lake, a large portion of the 504th Brigade's equipment was destroyed by Islamic artillery. Most of the men in the company under my command were either killed or wounded, and we surrendered to the forces of Islam. He added: The number of deaths among Iraqi troops in this area has been so great that the Iraqi regime has refrained from stating exact figures or returning the corpses of the Iraqi soldiers to their families. He noted: According to information available to our commanders, more than 60 Iraqi brigades stationed in the area were completely destroyed during this period. Our brigade, which was sent to the area from Chuwartah in the Al-Sulaymaniyah Province, also lost more than two battalions during the first stage of the operation. The officer, who was a teacher in Badrah before being sent to the fronts, commented on the power of the operations launched by the combatants of Islam. He affirmed: I believe that the resistance of the Iraqi contingents will soon be broken; the fall of their other defense lines into the hands of the combatants of Islam is imminent.

Commander of the 3d Battalion of the 82d Infantry Brigade First Lieutenant Tawfiq Isma'il 'Abd al-Karim, who is another Iraqi prisoner, made the following statement on the same topic: During the operations which took place the night before last, the strength of the Islamic forces' artillery fire was so great that a large number of our forces were killed and wounded right at the very start. He added: After the "Karbala'-5" operations, the 82d Infantry Brigade, composed of scouting units, was destroyed upon its arrival in the area by blows from the forces of Islam. He stressed that the "Karbala'-5" operation theater had now become a nightmare for the Iraqi forces. Not a single day goes by without Iraqi personnel being executed by firing squads because of disobedience or desertion from the fronts.

Commander of the 2d Battalion of the 504th Brigade Second Lieutenant Khalil Ibrahim Hasan, who was captured by the combatants of Islam on Tuesday, stated: At the beginning of the operation, our battalion lost a great deal of men and equipment from the heavy fire directed at it by the combatants of Islam. The number of people wounded during the preliminary stages of the operation was so large that relief forces were unable to help them. The limited number of people who remained unharmed surrendered to the forces of Islam. The officer, who is a resident of Nasiriyah in southern Iraq, also spoke about the present situation in his city. He said: Because of its proximity to Basra, Nasiriyah is now filled with thousands of emigrants.

The great flood of these emigrants has created quite a few problems for the Iraqi regime.

IRGC-Iraqi Kurdish Operations Viewed

LD051023 Tehran IRNA in English 1014 GMT 5 Mar 87

[Text] Tehran, March 5, IRNA — Forces under the command of Ramadan Headquarters and Kurdish Peshmergas of Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK), in a series of guerrilla operations deep inside Iraq dealt fatal blows on the Iraqi regime simultaneously with operations of Muslim forces in southern and western fronts.

The Peshmergas in an ambush attack on Irbil-Kirkuk road Wednesday, captured nine military bases and a battalion headquarters of the Iraqi forces, killing or wounding 100 Iraqis and capturing a number of others.

Simultaneously with this operation, the PUK Peshmergas attacked another base on Irbil-Kirkuk road and killed or wounded a number of Iraqi forces while capturing the base.

In a successful operation Wednesday night, an Iraqi brigadier general who had come to northern Iraq to recognize the battered Iraqi troops, was killed by PUK Peshmergas.

Meanwhile, a military column of the defeated Iraqi Army was entrapped by the Peshmergas on Kirkuk-Baghdad road. Three vehicles of the column were set on fire and all its passengers were

killed. The remaining personnel fled the area and one military vehicle was seized by the Peshmergas.

A military base of Iraqi forces was brought under heavy artillery fire of the Peshmergas in Chahar-Qarna [name as received] region, Sulaymaniyah Province, inflicting heavy losses on the enemy, Wednesday night. During the said operations, the PUK Peshmergas seized a remarkable amount of heavy and light munitions as well as telecommunications equipment.

Iraqi KDP Forces Raid Iraqis in Atrush

LD041357 Tehran IRNA in English 1344 GMT 4 Mar 87

[Text] Tehran, March 4, IRNA — Forces of Iraq's Kurdish Democratic Party (KDP) have recently raided Iraqi positions in the city of Atrush, a suburb of Dahuk, destroying an intelligence center and setting ablaze the headquarters of the Ba'th Party.

Announcing the above, the Central Headquarters of the Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps (IRGC) reported that several Iraqi soldiers were killed or wounded and a number of enemy vehicles destroyed in the operations.

The KDP forces returned safely to bases after successfully carrying out the operations, the report said.